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**PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT/
VISUAL SITE INSPECTION**

**BASF CORPORATION
DETROIT, MICHIGAN
MID 007 138 746**

FINAL REPORT

Prepared for

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Office of Waste Programs Enforcement
Washington, DC 20460**

Work Assignment No.	:	R05032
EPA Region	:	5
Site No.	:	MID 007 138 746
Date Prepared	:	April 22, 1993
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PRC No.	:	309-R05032MI01
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EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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VISUAL SITE INSPECTION SUMMARY

BASF CORPORATION
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48238
MID 007 138 746

Date: November 6, 1991

Facility Representatives: Allen Kinsler, Ecology Coordinator, BASF Corporation
(313) 861-1000, extension 448

Inspection Team: Tom Sinski, PRC Environmental Management, Inc.
Patricia Murphy, PRC Environmental Management, Inc.

Photographer: Patricia Murphy

Weather Conditions: Partly cloudy, mid-30s

Summary of Activities: The visual site inspection began at 8 a.m. at the BASF facility at 3301 Bourke Avenue. PRC's inspection team met with Allen Kinsler of BASF in a conference room at the facility. Tom Sinski reviewed the purpose of the site visit with Mr. Kinsler. The history of the site was reviewed, and past and current waste generation, storage, and disposal practices were discussed.

The tour of the facility began at 9:38 a.m. Mr. Kinsler discussed specific operations conducted at each of the production areas. The tour began in building 24 of the paint manufacturing plant and proceeded through the small container storage building and the caustic cleaning area to building 17 and 17A, which house the waste water treatment unit and the resin manufacturing plant. The clear-coat manufacturing building, 20A, and the former Nortru reclamation area in building 19 were inspected next. The outside SWMUs, the central drum storage area, and the tank farm were inspected last. The facility tour was completed at 11:05 a.m. A brief exit interview was conducted with Mr. Kinsler. The PRC inspection team left at 11:25 a.m.

2.0 FACILITY DESCRIPTION

This section describes the facility's location, past and present operations (including waste management practices), waste generating processes, release history, regulatory history, environmental setting, and receptors.

2.1 FACILITY LOCATION

The BASF facility is located at 3301 Bourke Avenue in western Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan (latitude 42°23'56" N; longitude 83°07'59" W). The facility occupies 20.75 acres in a mixed industrial and residential area. It is bordered on the north by Bourke Avenue, on the east by Wildemere Street, on the south by the C & O Railway, and on the west by Dexter Avenue. There are residences and schools within 1 mile of the facility. Figure 1 illustrates the location of the BASF facility.

2.2 FACILITY OPERATIONS

Akron Varnish Company owned the facility from 1907 to 1923. In 1923, Cook Industrial Coatings, Inc. (Cook), bought the facility and operated it until 1980, when its name was changed to Glasurit America, Inc. (Glasurit, 1982). On December 31, 1985, Glasurit merged with BASF Inmont Corporation and became BASF Corporation (Glasurit, 1985b). BASF currently employs approximately 270 people in the manufacture of paint, resins, and clear-coating material for the automotive industry. Figure 2 shows the layout of the facility. Table 1 lists the SWMUs identified at the BASF facility and their current status.

Cook manufactured paints, varnishes, miscellaneous coatings, and resins at the facility. The Cook site was a treatment, storage, and disposal facility (TSDF), as well as a generator, until its closure in 1984. During this period, the facility operated two solvent recycling stills. A firm call Nortru, Inc., owned by Norm Foster, accepted spent solvent wastes from off-site generators for recycling in the larger of the two stills. Spent solvents were transported in drums or bulk tanks to the site from off-site generators and were stored in aboveground tanks in building 20A (SWMU 1). Building 20A contained 19 tanks: 10 for spent solvents, 2 for still bottoms, and 7 for storage of solvents reclaimed by the Nortru-owned still. The spent solvents were stored for as long as a year before they were recycled (MDNR, 1982a). Only limited information is available about Nortru's solvent recovery operations. File information indicates that reclaimed solvents